



Terwilliger Fire Update

Southern Cascades Interagency Team

Incident Commander, Neil Miller

Incident Commander Trainee, Dirk Rogers

September 23, 2018 - 9:00 A.M.

Special Announcements: Forest Service Road (FR) 19 remains closed to the public and firefighters due to unsafe conditions from gravity fall hazards including rocks, debris and fire weakened trees. The closure begins at the junction of FR 408 south to Box Canyon. **The public is asked to respect the road and area closures for the protection to themselves and firefighters.**

Terwilliger Hot Springs remains closed for public safety. Mitigations to reduce hazards around the Springs area include falling fire weakened trees as well as trail reconstruction. Active fire is still in the area so please respect the closure area and keep out of the springs until the area is deemed safe by Willamette National Forest officials.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest jointly responded to the report of the Terwilliger Fire with both aircraft and firefighter resources. Although the fire did not burn on to ODF protected lands, the agency has stayed involved with suppression actions and planning.

Acreage: 11,279; acreage increase resulted by including larger unburned islands of fuel into the total

Cause: The fire is currently under investigation.

Completion: 80%

Public Information Phone: (541) 822-8216 Available 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Information Websites: Inciweb – <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6160> **Email:** terwilligerfireinfo@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/willamettewildfires/>

Resources: Total personnel assigned – 174: 3-type 2 IA hand crew, 1-heavy lift helicopter, 1-light lift helicopter, 3-engines, 1-dozer, 2-water tenders, 2-ambulances, 4-masticators, and 9–tracked heavy equipment.

Current Fire Information: A cold front moved through the area bringing showers and cooler temperatures yesterday. Varying amounts of rain fell over the fire area with .11” measured at the Pebble remote automated weather station. Much of the rain did not penetrate the forest canopy. Fire activity remains minimal with spread by creeping and backing. Low flame lengths continue to consume heavy fuels. Hand held infra-red cameras are being used along the western perimeter to detect hot spots. Firefighters will work on mopping up the located heat. The rain cooled the ground surface and allowed steam/heat to be easily detected. Heat has been located in areas previously believed cold. All perimeters are closely patrolled and monitored with emphasis on the west flank near the private lands. The contract scaling operation along Forest Service Road (FR 19) to reduce gravity hazards such as loose boulders and fire weakened trees is ongoing. All material is being moved off-site to Strube Flat for utilization, as determined by local forest

district management. A hazard tree falling contract along FR 500 is ongoing to reduce fire weakened trees along this road system. Logs will be decked for future processing. The northeast corner of the fire continues to creep slowly east into the Three Sisters Wilderness parallel to the East Fork of the South Fork of the McKenzie River. A roadside brusher and firefighters are reducing ladder fuels working along FR 1993. Chippers are being utilized to reduce the generated fuels.

Weather: A cold front moved through the area bringing showers and cooler temperatures. This afternoon is the beginning of a warming and drying trend reaching the upper 80 degrees by week's end. Today's temperatures are forecasted for 58-63 degrees, minimum relative humidity of 40-45%. Ridgetop winds will be variable 0-3 mph early, becoming north to northwest 5-8 mph with gusts to 15 mph in the afternoon.

Restrictions: The Willamette National Forest has implemented a Forest-wide campfire ban, which includes all campgrounds and Wilderness areas. For specific information on Forest Order 06-18-01-18-18, see the Willamette National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/willamette/alerts-notices>.

Closures: An Area Closure has been issued by the Willamette National Forest for the protection and safety of the public and firefighters. Closure order # 06-18-01-18-19 may be viewed in its entirety at <http://go.usa.gov/xRnz7> or on [Inciweb](http://inciweb). Please respect the closure areas for your and firefighter safety.

Evacuations: There are currently NO evacuation notices in place for this fire.

Air Quality: For smoke monitoring information, see Oregon Department of Environmental Quality <https://oraqi.deq.state.or.us/home/map> or <https://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/> or <http://www.lrapa.org>

Safety Consideration: People intending to hike into or near old fire scars should remain alert and aware of their surroundings at all times. Know the forecasted weather before entering the area, assess the weather conditions while in the area and stay clear of burned trees. Don't linger or camp in an old fire area. As always, let someone know of your planned route, destination, and expected time of return.

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